

(Continued from front cover)

110°F in parts of **western Texas** and **southwestern Oklahoma**. Highs approached or reached 100°F in the **southern Atlantic States** and as far north as **southern Kansas**. Weekly temperatures averaged 4 to 12°F above normal in the **South-Central States**, as much as 10°F above normal in **California's Central Valley**, and up to 8°F above normal in the **Southeast**. In contrast, cool weather slowed crop development in the **Northeast**, where temperatures averaged as much as 6°F below normal. Near-normal temperatures prevailed in the **Midwest**.

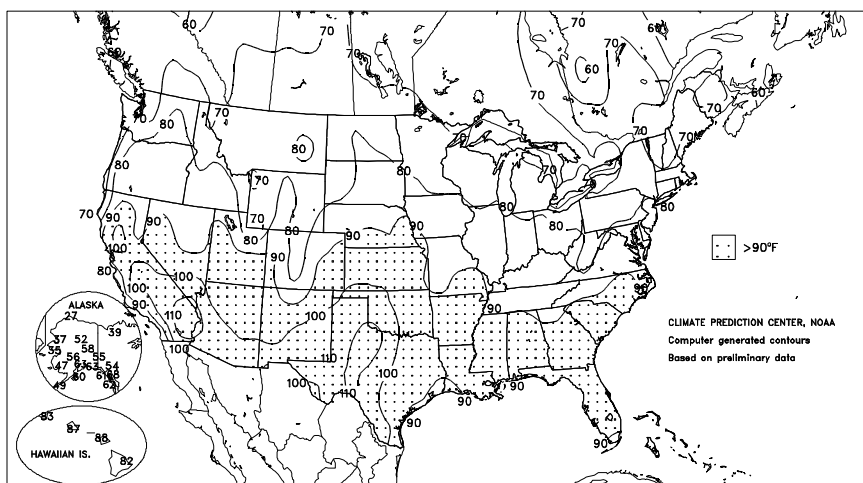
In **Michigan**, additional rainfall through week's end boosted May rainfall to record levels in **Grand Rapids** (9.41 inches) and **Muskegon** (7.28 inches). Elsewhere in **Lower Michigan**, **Lansing's** month-to-date total reached 6.87 inches, representing their wettest May since 7.42 inches fell in 1945. Meanwhile, weekly rainfall averaged 1.13 inches (0.18 inch above normal) in **Iowa**, following the State's wettest week (also 1.13 inches) in 44 weeks. **Iowa** recorded above-normal precipitation during 2 consecutive weeks for the first time since February, but posted only its eighth wetter-than-normal week among the past 40. Farther east, occasional rain continued to dampen the **Northeast**, pushing May and spring (March-May) precipitation totals toward record levels. In **Vermont**, **Burlington's** monthly rainfall reached 6.13 inches through week's end, their wettest May since 1983, while their spring total climbed to 12.67 inches, less than 3 inches shy of their 1983 record. In **New York**, **Binghamton's** May and January-May precipitation totals, 7.04 and 23.08 inches, respectively, surpassed records established in May 1968 (6.46 inches) and January-May 1998 (21.39 inches).

During the week, very heavy rainfall (2 to 4 inches, with locally higher totals) affected areas from **southeastern Kansas** and **northern Oklahoma** to the **northern Mid-Atlantic States**. Some of the heaviest totals were observed in previously dry areas of the **middle Mississippi Valley**. **Columbia, MO** netted a daily-record rainfall (2.96 inches) on Friday. Weekly rainfall reached 3.24 inches in **Columbia** and 3.23 inches in **Paducah, KY**. Across the **South**, however, little or no rainfall accompanied record heat. May 1-27 rainfall remained as low as 0.02 inch in **Tampa, FL** and 0.07 inch in **New Orleans, LA**. Year-to-date precipitation through week's end stood at 3.11 inches (26 percent of normal) in **Tampa**, their lowest since only 2.55 inches fell during the first 5 months of 1898, and 7.67 inches (31 percent) in **New Orleans**. **New Orleans'** year-to-date rainfall deficit grew to 16.69 inches.

During the week, more than 150 daily-record highs and at least 10 May-record highs were set or tied, mainly across the **South**. Heat peaked after midweek in the **Southeast**, where record highs on May 25 included 101°F in **Columbia, SC** and 99°F in **Augusta, GA**. **Augusta** also noted a record high of 99°F on Saturday. Farther west, record heat shifted from **California** early in the week to the **southern Plains** by midweek. In

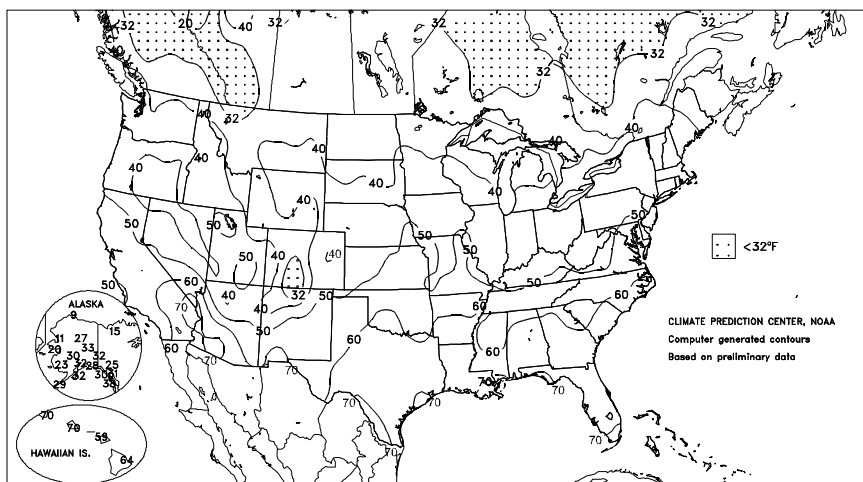
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

MAY 21 - 27, 2000



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

MAY 21 - 27, 2000



**southern California**, **Thermal** (111, 114, 110°F) collected three consecutive daily-record highs from May 20-22. The record heat lasted 1 day longer in **Paso Robles, CA** (103, 106, 108, and 103°F). By Tuesday in **Arizona**, May-record highs were established in locations such as **Cottonwood** (106°F) and **Page** (99°F). Meanwhile in **Texas**, **Wichita Falls'** high of 110°F eclipsed their May record of 108°F, set on May 31, 1998. **Wichita Falls** noted 110°F again on May 24, while **Del Rio** (109°F), **Lubbock** (109°F), and **Midland** (108°F) also tallied May-record highs. In **southwestern Oklahoma**, **Frederick's** highs reached 111°F on May 23 and 112°F on May 24. In sharp contrast, scattered frost and near-freezing temperatures affected the **Nation's northern tier**. On Friday morning in **Wisconsin**, **Rhinelanders** noted a low of 31°F.

Continuing a month-long trend in **Alaska**, very cool air (as much as 10°F below normal during the week in western areas) remained entrenched nearly statewide. On May 23, **Nome, AK** posted a daily-record low of 20°F, followed 3 days later by records in **McGrath** and **Cold Bay** (both 30°F). Meanwhile, drought continued to intensify across most of **Hawaii**. Light showers were generally confined to typically wetter windward locations.